

9/15/2007

## Exhibit to benefit Institute of the Arts

**Old and modern works are on display and for sale in the institute's Yocum Gallery as part of its "Art Exchange" exhibit.**

**View the exhibition at <http://www.youtube.com/ronschira>**

By Ron Schira  
*Reading Eagle Correspondent*

**Wyomissing, PA** - Following the phenomenal success of its 2006 exhibit of artist Jack Coggins' works for the benefit of his wife, Alma Wood, the Institute of the Arts, Wyomissing, has initiated a series of successive exhibits to be held in its Yocum Gallery.

The exhibits are designed to supplement the institute's funding on a yearly basis and are technically shows of collectors' art that have been in their owners' possession for some time.

The institute has offered to take those pieces on consignment and sell them for a slightly higher price with the remainder going into its coffers. Termed "The Art Exchange," the event is organized by institute director Susan Rohn, artist Bruce Becker and assistants Ann Woodward and Chris Miller.

The show continues through the end of the month.

There is an excessively wide range of work in the show, with some pieces costing tens of thousands of dollars, while others a few dollars.

A number of artworks are still available from the Coggins estate, and are on view with other works by well-known artists such as Charles Fazzino, Harvey K. Littleton, Dina Podolsky. A larger painting by Brazilian artist Juarez Machado called "Lucky in Cards, Lucky in Love" is also on view.

A few pieces are over a century old, such as an exquisite oil painting by William Vester titled "Pastoral Scene, Cows and Stream." This work is typically pre-impressionist mannerism.

Others are more contemporary, such as Matthew Popielarz's acrylic painting "New York," in which the artist depicts a busy Times Square street scene in bright colors and sharp detail.

"We have something for everybody," Miller said. "We have drawings and lithographs, oils and acrylics, with more classical artworks mixed in with contemporary work. Some of the collectors just wanted to help the institute, others want to trade up, but there is an extreme amount of quality workmanship here. Some of the collectors spent a lot of money to acquire these pieces."

Considering the maturity of the paintings, they are remarkably well kept. It was the older paintings that held my attention; the more modern ones were less appealing.

"We hope to do this every year," Rohn said, "as long as we can keep the same board and our friends and collectors remain as generous with their art and assistance as they have been. This has been a wonderful and thrilling experience seeing these paintings hanging in here."

Decorative ceramics, plateware and Scherenschnitte (cut patterns) are also on display.

- Contact Ron Schira at [entertainment@readingeagle.com](mailto:entertainment@readingeagle.com).